

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND
COORDINATION REVIEWS THE PROGRAM EVALUATION OF THE
OFFICE OF OCEAN ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY - USDEL REPORT #8

1. SUMMARY. THE COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM COORDINATION (CPC)
CONSIDERED THE PROGRAM EVALUATION FOR THE PERIOD 1974-77
OF THE OFFICE OF OCEAN ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY (OET)
JUNE 1. END SUMMARY

2. IN INTRODUCING THE REPORT OF THE PROGRAM EVALUATION,
OET DIRECTOR JEAN-PIERRE LEVY EMPHASIZED THAT HIS UNIT
RESPONDED TO A NEED NOT HITHERTO MET BY THE UN, TO WIT,
A NEED TO COORDINATE UN ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO THE
SEA. HE VIEWED THE PROGRAM AS FLEXIBLE CITING THE
EXAMPLE OF A MANUAL THAT WAS SUBMITTED TO REVISION BY
OUTSIDE EXPERTS BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL "IN-HOUSE" DRAFT WAS
CONSIDERED INADEQUATE. THIS DELAYED ISSUANCE OF THE
DOCUMENT BUT "QUALITY WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THDE TIME
FRAME." LEVY ALSO NOTED THAT HIS OFFICE PREPARED
EXPLANATORY DOCUMENTS FOR DELEGATIONS FROM DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT HAVE THE EXPERTISE TO REVIEW
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TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS.

3. BELGIUM ASKED AS TO WHETHER STUDIES CITED IN THE
EVALUATION REPORT (E/AC 51/91 ADD. 1) WERE MADE BY OUTSIDE
EXPERTS FUNDED BY EXTRA BUDGETARY FUNDS OR BY REGULAR
STAFF FUNDED FROM THE REGULAR BUDGET.

4. US (CUNNINGHAM) APPLAUDED THE SECTION OF THE REPORT WHICH ILLUSTRATED WHAT EFFECTS WOULD OCCUR TO THE PROGRAMS IF FUNDS WERE HYPOTHETICALLY INCREASED OR DECREASED BY 20 PERCENT. THIS WAS A USEFUL INDICATOR WHICH SHOULD BE INCORPORATED IN ALL SUCH REPORTS.

5. INDIA EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS THAT THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR THE PROGRAMS (PARAS 22-27 OF THE REPORT) CONTAINED LANGUAGE FROM THE PREAMBULAR BUT NOT THE OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF RESOLUTIONS.

6. ARGENTINA QUERIED AS TO WHETHER OET'S MANDATE CONFLICTED WITH THAT OF FAO.

7. IN RESPONSE TO BELGIUM, LEVY SAID THAT OET DID NOT HAVE ANY EXTRA BUDGETARY POSTS. WITH RESPECT TO OET'S MANDATE VIS-A-VIS FAO, THERE WAS NO PROBLEM SINCE FAO HAD SPECIFIC AUTHORITY OVER FISHERIES.

8. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 13, JAPAN WONDERED WHY REGIONAL GROUPS HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE WORK OF THE ACC SUB-COMMITTEE ON MARINE AFFAIRS.

9. BELGIUM QUESTIONED THE EXTENT OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THE SUB-COMMITTEE AND THE INTER-SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS RELATING TO OCEANOGRAPHY
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(ICSPRO) AND ASKED IF BOTH BODIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXIST. INDIA NOTED THAT PARA L3 SEEMED TO INDICATE A CURRENT LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THE SUB-COMMITTEE AND ICSPRO.

10. LEVY REPLIED TO JAPAN THAT IT HAS BEEN HARD FOR THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS TO WORK WITH THE SUB-COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS. WITH RESPECT TO COORDINATION, HE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE AND ICSPRO TO WORK TOGETHER BUT ADMITTED THAT UP UNTIL NOW THEIR RELATIONSHIP HAD BEEN DIFFICULT. ICSPRO HAS BEEN ASKED TO REPORT TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE. IN DESCRIBING ICSPRO, HE SAID IT WAS AN INTER-SECRETARIAT AGENCY SUBJECT TO THE INSTRUCTIONS OF SECRETARIAT HEADS AND NOT GOVERNMENTS. ITS ACTIVITIES WERE "NOT SECRET" IN THAT THEY ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE. FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE RULES OF BOTH BODIES WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE.

11. REFERRING TO PARA 19, US SAID IT APPEARED THAT PRIOR CONSULTATION ON BUDGETS WAS RELATIVELY NEW AND ASKED

WHY UNESCO WAS THE ONLY BODY THAT HAD SO FAR DONE THIS.
FREDERICK LISTER OF THE OFFICE OF INTER-AGENCY AFFAIRS
SAID THAT WHEN THE REQUEST FOR PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WENT
OUT LAST SUMMER UNESCO TOOK THE REQUEST MOST SERIOUSLY AND
THAT REPLIES FROM OTHER AGENCIES WERE BEING AWAITED.
ALTHOUGH PRIOR CONSULTATIONS HAD GONE ON FOR YEARS,
THE CONSULTATIONS REFERRED TO IN PARA 19 INVOLVED NEW
FUNCTIONS REQUESTED BY THE ACC.

12. DURING REVIEW OF CHAPTER 5 (OUTPUT), US ASKED AS TO
HOW OET DOCUMENTS WERE EFFICIENTLY DISTRIBUTED IN VIEW
OF THE FACT DOCUMENTS ARE NOT ALWAYS UNDER THE CONTROL
OF THE SUBSTANTIVE DEPARTMENT THAT PRODUCES THEM.

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13. LEVY RESPONDED THAT OET HAS AN ESTABLISHED DISTRI-
BUTION PATTERN WHICH IT FOLLOWS. HOWEVER, THE QUESTION
OF DETERMINING WHICH DOCUMENTS WOULD BE PUT UP FOR
SALE WAS OUTSIDE THE COMPETENCE OF HIS OFFICE. ONLY
UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES DOES OET ASK THAT A

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DOCUMENT BE PUBLISHED FOR SALES. BELGIUM INTERJECTED
THAT IT DID NOT SEEM THAT THE DECISION TO PUBLISH
DEPENDED ON THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED AND WONDERED

WHETHER THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE DECIDED QUESTIONS ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL INTEREST OR POLITICAL CONTENT.

14. TURNING TO CHAPTER 6 (USERS AND DISTRIBUTION), US SAID IT MUST BE KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT PUBLICATIONS GOT INTO THE HANDS OF THE END USER. UK NOTED THAT OET DID NOT PRODUCE A NEWSLETTER WHICH SEEMED TO BE A MECHANISM FOUND USEFUL BY OTHER SECTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT. BELGIUM AGREED THAT A NEWSLETTER NOTIFYING USERS OF FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS WOULD BE WELCOME.

15. US, DURING CONSIDERATION OF CHAPTER 7 (IMPACT), SAID THE REPORT PRESENTED A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW HAZARDS CAN BE AVOIDED. ONE PROBLEM WAS DETERMINING WHETHER SALES FIGURES DETERMINED THE QUALITY OF A DOCUMENT. HIGH QUALITY WAS NOT NECESSARILY A PRE-CONDITION FOR A BEST-SELLING BOOK. HARD THINKING WAS NEEDED TO DEFINE INDICATORS UPON WHICH TO ASSESS THE QUALITY OF DOCUMENTS. PAKISTAN OPINED THAT QUANTITY OF SALES WAS A FAIRLY REASONABLE INDICATOR. UNCLASSIFIED

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UGANDA SUGGESTED THAT COUNTRIES SHOULD BE CONSULTED IN SOME MANNER DURING THE EVALUATION PROCESS. GHANA AGREED WITH US THAT IT WAS QUESTIONABLE TO ATTRIBUTE QUALITY TO SALES FIGURES.

16. REFERRING TO TECHNICAL COOPERATION, PAKISTAN STATED THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ASSESS THE QUALITY OF THE ASSISTANCE WAS TO LOOK AT THE END RESULT AND TO ELICIT THE COOPERATION OF THE RECIPIENT GOVERNMENT IN THE EVALUATION EXERCISE. YOUNG

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